



Our vision is to create joyous Jewish experiences that inspire action.

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OFFICE STAFF

Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik

Rabbi Rose Durbin

Cantorial Soloist Kaylene Cole

Rabbi Joel Levine, D.D., Rabbi Emeritus

Morli Fidler - Executive Director

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TEMPLE JUDEA

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Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik

Dear Temple Judea Family,

As another fiscal year at Temple Judea comes to an end, we receive an opportunity to reflect on what was without doubt a challenging year for our temple family.

Throughout the last year, I found myself going back to the beautiful story told by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, about a wellknown Jewish merchant named Moishe, whose shop was destroyed by a sudden fire. Watching all his fortune and life work disappear in the flames, Moishe was sure his life was destroyed forever - but to his surprise, when the fire was extinguished, a hidden door was discovered beneath the ashes, revealing a cellar filled with treasures that had been concealed for generations. A treasure that gave him the opportunity to rebuild a bigger and better store and become the most famous merchant that ever lived in his town!

Rabbi Sacks tells this story to remind us of one of our tradition's most valuable teachings: "Gam zu l'tovah" – this too is for the good. "From every ending comes a new beginning. From every loss, a new discovery."
In October, just days before the High

Message from Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik

"From every ending comes a new beginning.

From every loss, a new discovery."

— Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Holidays, our temple experienced its own "fire." Despite reaching an agreement and understanding with the temple that they would fulfill their contracts in full and remain with Temple Judea until the end of May 2025, a series of unfit behaviors led to an emergency board decision allowing Rabbi Strauss to resign effective immediately, which he did. Despite what I personally believe was a gesture of kindness to Rabbi Strauss, done with a hope that Cantor Strauss would decide to respect her contract, she made the decision not to honor her contract and she resigned as well.

Their sudden and unexpected departures left many of us anxious about our future. Given that the details of all the events leading to this situation are private and fall under H.R. privacy law, and as such could not be shared with the congregation, it was only natural that rumors would start spreading, many with the power to distort reality and to destroy in seconds reputations built with hard work for close to two decades.

There were moments that I felt my life's work was at risk, a sense of helplessness from having no control over a situation I did not ask for or create, and one I had no power to fix despite countless efforts to do so before the fire began. (This of course is my personal perspective and reflection of the situation.)
I can summarize this period of challenge and uncertainty we as a

temple and I personally were facing with one word. A word well familiar in our tradition of "Jewish anxiety" -Xanax.

In retrospect, I worried too much, for only a handful (and I mean that literally, a number that can be counted on one hand) of people chose to follow a false narrative that the temple and its leadership were in the wrong and left the temple in anger. For that too, our tradition teaches us about "yeridah I'tzorech aliyah" – a descent for the purpose of ascending.

And we indeed have ascended this year, higher than we have ever reached.

We have experienced unprecedented growth that has led to something previously unimaginable: a waiting list for membership. This waiting list allows us to maintain the high level of personal attention and connection we take pride in giving to each new and existing member.

And just like in the story I just shared, we discovered unexpected treasures beneath what appeared to be ruins. The first treasure was our Cantorial Soloist Kaylene Cole.

After being with us once a month on Shabbat for close to two years, we knew she was a treasure, but we did not realize how quickly she could become the jewel on top of the crown. Seeing our situation and understanding our distress, Kaylene stepped up to the plate and in record time, prepared herself and her musical team for a High Holiday experience like no other (and not only because it was in a church) - her poise, elegance, brilliance, kindness and perfect voice were all part of why it was clear to us that she should lead us not just for the High Holy Days - but into the future. This decision, which was a huge life change for Kaylene and her husband Jared, took some time to make, but I could not be happier to have her make it, and to welcome her, beginning this July, as a full-time member of our team. We will forever be grateful for Kaylene and we look forward to supporting her as she begins her multi-year journey to be ordained as a full Cantor!

Other treasures included talented clergy and professionals who stood by our side this year, Rabbi Rose Durbin, our Soloist Alex Schecter, Cantor Shira Ginsburg and Rabbi Allison Cohen, each of them adding their own talents and strengths to ensure the stability of our temple during this challenging year.

And with the opportunity to start a search for new clergy, there was an opportunity to raise money for this cause and I am so grateful to the Shleifer family, who heard our call and have decided to endow the Rabbinic Chair with the largest one-time gift ever given to Temple Judea, one that puts us in a real competitive position in what is becoming a narrower field of great rabbinic and cantorial talent. And finally, the treasure discovered in YOU - my Temple Judea family.

When the flames erupted, the vast majority of our temple member families did what one does when they see their family struggling, they said "Hineni" - here I am. I will forever be grateful for all of you, too many to mention by name, who offered your support by volunteering, by sharing a good word, by showing love, and by reassuring me that you care

too much about this temple to let anything damage it or its reputation. People who not only opened their hearts but also their pockets and showed tremendous generosity to our temple this year. Helping us finish the year with a balanced budget despite having to cancel the Cantorial concert which was a major fundraiser for our temple.

From the fire we continued to build and this year - we have finished the renovation of our sanctuary, our social hall and the landscaping around the temple as well as the installation of a new roof. All with no "capital campaign" or even a "building fund" - and with a great appreciation and sense of gratitude to those who led the effort: first and foremost, Rita and Burt (Z"L) Tansky and Bob and Beryl Schneider. The temple is looking fabulous.

And the future brings with it great promise.

Once again we are resuming our temple trips to Israel, we will have a record number of Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies at temple and we will continue to offer outstanding programs and worship experiences. Anticipating continued growth, we will explore ways to accommodate all who wish to join our community, and expand our team in order to be prepared for our challenge of space. Yes - as we like to say "not having space is a good challenge" - but it is still a challenge.

As we embrace it, let us take a moment to share a sense of pride in how this phenomenon speaks to the vibrancy and appeal of Temple Judea in our community. Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank all of you, our members, who serve as our best ambassadors and keep encouraging your friends to join you! Our growth and renewal would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the commitment of each member

who continued to believe in our community during times of uncertainty. Special thanks to our board of directors and to outgoing President Jason Haselkorn, who in his calm and composed manner navigated us not only through this storm, but for the past five years, with a great sense of assurance and confidence. We could not have asked for a more professional and committed president during years that began with a pandemic and ended with this current transition.

I want to welcome and wish best of luck to our incoming president Keith Paulus who, after many years as our treasurer, leading us with a very solid and conservative approach to a state of financial stability, is now ready for a new challenge. I look forward to working closely by his side. And finally to the person who makes everything look so easy and smooth at temple, who almost single-handedly supervises both the renovation and the programming, the day-to-day operation and the big ideas, the search process and the B'nai Mitzvah families - our Executive Director Morli Fidler. This year she added so much to what was already a full plate, and she did it with grace, with a level of professionalism that is hard to find and with a great devotion to this temple and what it stands for. One of my favorite teachings and life lessons to my children, and one I used a lot this year, is that "cemeteries are full of people who were irreplaceable."

I hold this statement to be true with the exception of what Morli brings to our temple.

As we enter a new fiscal year, we do so with gratitude for the challenges that revealed new possibilities and with excitement for the future we are building together.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Yaron



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PRESIDENT'S **MESSAGE**

Dear TJ Family,

As I reflect on my third, and final year, serving as your president, I find myself filled with both gratitude and hope for the future of our beloved synagogue community. This past year has presented us with unexpected challenges as well as remarkable opportunities for growth and renewal.

This past year has indeed tested our resilience. The departure of Rabbi Feivel and Cantor Abbie Strauss created a significant transition for our community. As spouses, their simultaneous departures presented a unique challenge for our congregation, requiring us to adapt and support one another through periods of uncertainty.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our board of trustees for their extraordinary professionalism, wisdom, and dedication during this period of transition. They have approached these sensitive personnel matters with the utmost integrity, thoughtfulness, and respect for all involved. Their commitment to maintaining the stability and values of our community, even when facing difficult decisions, has been exemplary. The countless hours they have invested in ensuring a smooth transition process reflects their deep devotion to the long-term health and vibrancy of our congregation.

Jordan Brown

I must also express my deepest appreciation to our Senior Rabbi, Yaron Kapitulnik. His unwavering leadership, spiritual guidance, and boundless energy have been a source of strength for our entire community. Rabbi Kapitulnik has consistently demonstrated a profound commitment to our congregation, offering wisdom and compassion during both celebrations and difficult times. His ability to inspire and connect with members of all ages has strengthened the fabric of our community.

And under Rabbi Yaron's leadership, despite all the turmoil, Temple Judea thrived. Beginning with the High Holy Days, to our weekly worship, to touching lifecycle events, TJ didn't miss a beat. In fact, we are experiencing unprecedented growth.

Who could have foreseen that our growth would lead us to temporarily pause new membership applications or implement members-only services for certain events? These measures, while unexpected, reflect the tremendous vitality and appeal of our community. Such "challenges of success" are ones we embrace with gratitude, even as we work diligently to expand our capacity and ensure that we can continue to welcome all who wish to join our synagogue family. The enthusiasm with which people seek to be part of our community speaks volumes about the meaningful Jewish experiences we create together.

I am filled with optimism as we look to the future. We have been blessed with new additions to our clergy team, including Cantorial Soloist Kaylene Cole, whose beautiful voice and passionate spirit have already begun to enrich our services and musical programming. Her energy and dedication help us establish new traditions while honoring those we cherish. I also want to thank our Cantor in Residence, Shira Ginsburg, and our Rabbi in Residence. Allison Cohen, and soloist Alex Schecter for supporting Rabbi Yaron and our Temple. All added so much depth and beauty to our worship experience and enriches all our lives.

I wish to extend special thanks to Rabbi Rose Durbin, who stepped up with remarkable dedication following Rabbi Feivel's departure. Her leadership of Torah study, compassionate pastoral care, and thoughtful guidance of our B'nai Mitzvah students have been invaluable during this transition period. While we will miss her as she moves on to pursue her own pulpit, we are grateful for her service and wish her every success in her next chapter. Her contributions have helped maintain the continuity of our sacred traditions during a challenging time.

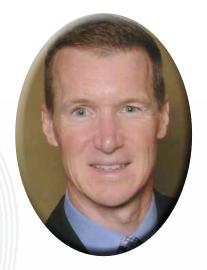
This past year, I have been deeply moved by the strength and resilience of our congregation. You have demonstrated remarkable patience, understanding, and commitment to our shared values and vision. Your continued engagement and support, whether through attendance at services, participation in educational programs, or contributions to our various committees and initiatives—have been essential in maintaining the vitality of our community.

As we move forward, I am confident that our synagogue will continue to be a place of meaningful worship, lifelong learning, and profound connection. The foundation we have built together over these past three years remains strong, and I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president. I look forward to welcoming our new president, Keith Paulus, who I know will lead our community with dedication and vision.

With gratitude and hope,

Jason Haselkorn



TREASURER'S REPORT 2024-2025

Keith Paulus

MEMBERSHIP:

Temple Judea continues to maintain a strong membership base, allowing us to sustain our community and services. We had budgeted for a net increase of 6 new members for the 2024/25 fiscal year. I am pleased to report that we are ending the year with a net increase of +36 new members, for a total of 720 paying member households and 786 total member households, far exceeding our expectations. This significant growth in membership has positively impacted our dues collection and strengthened our community. We are grateful to all families who have joined our Temple community this fiscal year.

DUES:

Temple Judea's primary source of income continues to be dues. Importantly, one of the core values of Temple Judea is to keep our doors open to anyone wishing to be a member, regardless of their ability to pay dues. We are very grateful to our members who continue to donate to our Chai and Golden Chai Societies, which go above and beyond their commitment to make this possible.

FUNDRAISING:

Temple Judea relies on its annual fundraising to help offset the difference in expenses versus dues collected. This year, thanks to our successful High Holy Day appeal, we were able to secure additional funding that contributed significantly to our surplus. The generosity of our members during this campaign was

instrumental in achieving our positive financial outcome.

ENDOWMENT:

Temple Judea continues to partner with the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County's Life and Legacy Program, securing endowment gifts which help secure the long-term financial future of the Temple. I am proud to announce that our endowment has now surpassed \$5+ million, representing a significant milestone in our financial sustainability.

This year, we received an extraordinary pledge from the Elena and Scott Shleifer to endow the Rabbinic Chair for \$1.8 million, which is Temple Judea's largest gift ever. We extend our deepest gratitude to Scott and Elena for their exceptional generosity and commitment to our temple's future. This transformative gift will ensure rabbinic leadership for generations to come.

We continue to extend our sincere thanks to all members who have made endowment commitments of any size, all of which help solidify our Temple's future.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:

We have continued to maintain our facilities and address necessary capital improvements throughout the year. As you are aware, Temple Judea does not have a building fund, nor are members assessed for capital expenses. Instead, we either fund these improvements from our balance sheet and savings or receive generous designated gifts from our members.

This year, we are especially grateful to several members whose extraordinary generosity has allowed us to make significant improvements to our facilities:

- Hal and Barbara Danenberg for funding the painting of our lobby
- Bob and Beryl Schneider for funding the painting of our social hall
- Burt* and Rita Tansky for the new pews in the sanctuary and the carpeting in both the sanctuary and social hall.

All of the members who contributed towards our new Mishkan Tefilah prayerbooks (listed on page 15). These generous contributions have enhanced our physical space and the experience of all who enter our Temple.

CLERGY TRANSITION:

This fiscal year saw transitions in our clergy, which resulted in lower personnel expenses than originally budgeted. While these transitions presented challenges, they also contributed to our financial surplus for the year. The board has been working diligently on succession planning to ensure the continued spiritual leadership of our community.

Dues this upcoming fiscal year:

All current members (as of May 31, 2025) will be assessed a 3% increase in their current dues. Current members will be considered "grandfathered" and will remain in their assigned age category. The only exception is our seasonal membership category - which our board has agreed to eliminate. We believe members should support their community year-round and with the use of streaming we have found that many members are participating in our offerings even when they are away. Seasonal members will be moved to their relevant age category.

We will be moving to a new dues structure effective June 1, 2025, for any member who joins post June 1, 2025, with only two categories- single or family. The dues rate for this upcoming fiscal year will be \$2500 for single membership and \$3500 for family membership which more accurately represents the true cost of membership. As we have always offered, anyone who is experiencing financial hardship can request an abatement.

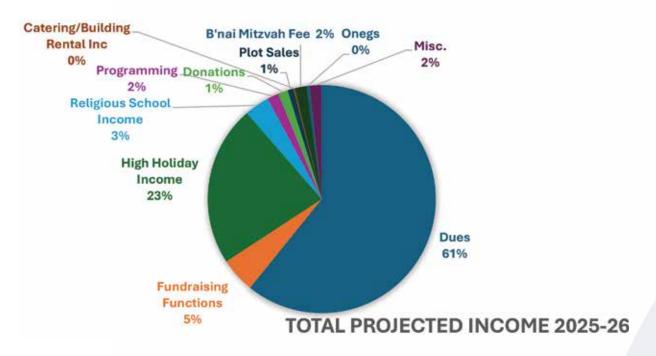
LOOKING AHEAD:

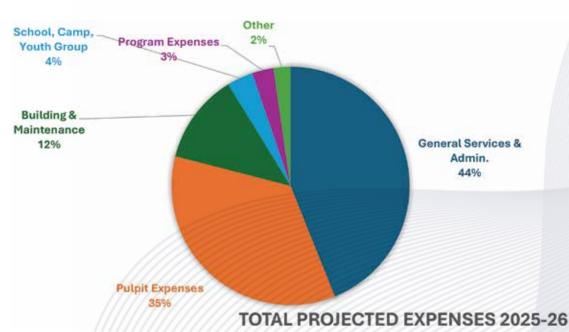
As we look ahead to the next fiscal year, the board remains committed to responsible financial management while maintaining the high quality of programming, education, and

spiritual guidance that defines Temple Judea. We will be sending membership renewals soon, and we want to thank you in advance for your continued support.

Temple Judea's financial health remains strong, and we are well-positioned to face the opportunities and challenges of the coming year.

Keith Paulus





Our vibrant religious school welcomes over 100 students in grades K-6 who gather each Sunday for a journey of Jewish learning and connection.

The curriculum builds progressively through the elementary years, with our 5th and 6th graders deepening their Jewish identity through additional Hebrew language sessions during the weekday afternoons. This comprehensive approach to Jewish education embodies the sacred principle of L'Dor Vador—from generation to generation—as we pass down our traditions, values, and heritage.

Every Sunday, our school has a Judaica lesson based on a yearlong theme, Hebrew language, electives like art, music, cooking, yoga, and time with the rabbi, and of course community building time - like recess, and assembly. We believe it is an honor to be our young family's partners in nurturing young minds who will one day become the torchbearers of our community, continuing

the unbroken chain of Jewish knowledge and practice that has sustained our people for millennia.

Our dedicated educators create a joyous and enriching environment where ancient wisdom meets contemporary understanding, ensuring our traditions remain relevant and vital for the next generation.

We would like to thank our amazing teachers:

Mirjam Milbauer and Ariella Ben Lev: Kindergarten

Bobbie Miller: First Grade Lara Wanuck: Second Grade Rebecca Michalski: Third Grade Shari Alexios: Fourth Grade

Helen Graber: Fifth Grade Ben Holtzman: Sixth Grade

Hebrew Language: Haviva Lapkin and Beth Pennamacoor Rabbi Rose Durbin, Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik and Rabbi Melissa Stohlman And all of our teen madrichim: Olivia Alonso, Blake Berg, Sophie Buchsbaum, Jake Chavez, Lexi Herman, Elysha Lippman, Sydney Pomerantz, Owen Richman, Haley Roth, Ben Seelig, Molly Seelig, Jacob Sinclair, and Kali Taylor.

Rabbi's Circle

Formed in June of 2020, to ensure the long-term stability of the Temple, the Rabbi's Circle, continues to grow we are so blessed that these families have joined hands to enhance our Temple's foundation.

We are so grateful to these pioneering households whose commitment and generosity support our vision and dreams!

Earl Abramson* & Sheila Schlaggar Diane & Neil Exter Alan Goldberg Susan Goldfarb Nancy & Joel Hart Joan & Peter Hoffman Vivian Lieberman Karen & David Mandelbaum Eva & Marvin Schlanger Beryl & Bob Schneider Barbara & Peter Sidel Sydelle Sonkin Rita & Burt* Tansky Linda Teitelbaum Terry & Frank Vaccaro Lynne & Stuart Weitzman Ellen & Joe Wright Marjorie Yashar & Gerry Gibian

For more information about the Rabbi's Circle, please contact Morli Fidler at 561-624-4633 or morli@gotj.org

*of Blessed Memory

LEGACY SOCIETY

As the Talmud says,

"I did not find the world desolate when I entered it, and as my ancestors planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me."

We are grateful to the following members for their endowment gifts which will help ensure that the Jewish traditions, and our sacred home, will exist for future generations. They are indeed planting for those who will come after them. If you are interested in making a legacy gift to Temple Judea, be it cash, or through a will or bequest, please contact Morli Fidler, Executive Director, at 561-624-4633.

Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik

Earl Abramson* and Sheila Schlaggar Anonymous Gloria and Donald Bell Isabel and Steven Berg Estate of Herbert Biederman Lesley* and Steven Birenbaum Constance and David* Blacher Joyce and Ronald Bortnick Carol Clawson and Johan Jacobsen Beth and Barry Cohen Rebecca and Nathan* Cohen Joyce and Chris* Demain Phyllis and Bernard* Eisenstein Morli Fidler Barbara* and Fred Fields Judith Fleishman Alan Goldberg Amy and Dan Goldstein Ruth Gonzalez Sharyn and Michael* Greenhill Zena and Harvey Hafetz Joan and Milton* Hermann Lorraine Hoffinger* and Emanuel Belkin* Joan and Peter Hoffman Beatrice and David James

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> As of April 14, 2025 *of Blessed Memory



Temple Judea gratefully acknowledges the individuals, families, companies, and foundations that have given their financial support throughout this past year. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this report. Information included herein is as of April 15, 2021. Any omissions or errors do not diminish the high respect we hold for all our benefactors. If we have erred, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us so that we may correct our records and apologize personally. Please contact Morli Fidler, Executive Director, by phone at 561-624-4633.

We are delighted to announce Elena and Scott Shleifer's Historic \$1.9 Million Gift to Endow the Rabbinic Chair at Temple Judea

We are profoundly grateful to Elena and Scott Shleifer for their extraordinary generosity in providing a record-breaking gift of \$1.9 million to endow the rabbinic chair at Temple Judea. This transformative contribution represents not only the largest single donation in our congregation's history but also reflects the Shleifer family's deep commitment to ensuring the vibrant future of Jewish spiritual leadership in our community.

Outstanding rabbinical leadership is the cornerstone of Temple Judea's success - our rabbis provide the spiritual guidance, Torah scholarship, and compassionate counsel that energizes our congregation and nurtures meaningful Jewish journeys for individuals and families alike. They inspire us during life's most significant moments, offer wisdom that connects ancient traditions to contemporary challenges, and cultivate a welcoming community where Judaism thrives.

Their visionary philanthropy will sustain rabbinic excellence for generations to come, allowing our congregation to focus on expanding programs, deepening Jewish education, and strengthening our community bonds. The Shleifer family's remarkable investment in Temple Judea's future will create a lasting legacy that will benefit countless families for decades ahead.

We are most grateful to our members for donating the most precious gift...their time!

Temple Judea Board of Trustees (see page 6)

Sisterhood President - Marilyn Schwartz Sisterhood Board:

Julie Buckner, Karen Karmazin, Amy Rubin, Kathy Lisberg, Karen Wanuck, Joyce Bortnick, Sylvia Clement, Susan Klein, Sheree Friedlander, Marjorie Lesser-Wallen*, Ruth Rosenberg

Marcia Grobman, LCSW, for running our Candid Conversations Group for women, a caregiver support group and a bereavement support group

Kabbalah - Ellie Schweitzer, Leader

Book Club - Beth Baker, Chairperson

Caring Community - Ruth Gonzalez, Chairperson

Mussar - Michael Ross and JoEllen Alvarez, Facilitators

To all our monthly sandwich makers..... THANK YOU!

Together we donated almost 10,000 sandwiches to St. George Table during this past year.

To all our social action volunteers - be it at the Palm Beach County Food Bank, Feeding Hope Village, Quantum House, Food Packing for Haiti, Gleaning, and many more. Thank you for helping us be God's partners to make our world a better place!

To our knitters who donated over 900 blankets to St. Mary's Children's Hospital, Homesafe, Family Promise and Harmony House – a shelter for women suffering from domestic violence and to Isabel Berg, Chairperson, for coordinating and delivering all our creations!

To all our donors to our various drives like the High Holy Day Food Drive, the VA Thanksgiving Baskets and many more!

To all our helpers who ran countless errands, picked up donations, helped with technology, and were there when we cried, "HELP!!!"

Temple Judea gratefully acknowledges

Temple Judea's Sisterhood

Generously supporting camp scholarships; B'nai Mitzvah scholarships; and B'nai Mitzvah gifts.

WE TRIED OUR BEST TO
REMEMBER ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS, BUT IN THE
EVENT WE INADVERTENTLY
FORGOT TO LIST YOUR
NAME - PLEASE ACCEPT
OUR SINCEREST
APOLOGIES AND
OF COURSE
OUR THANKS!

Mishkan T'filah Our New Shabbat Prayerbooks

A special thank you to the donors of our new Shabbat worship prayerbooks - Mishkan Tefillah. We are very grateful for your generosity.

Leonard Abramson & Ellen Michelle Goldberg Joan & Richard Barovick Isabel & Steven Berg Brynne & Elliot Ellis Shelly & Judd Ettinger Susan Goldfarb Amy & Wayne Gould Nancy & Joel Hart Joan & Peter Hoffman Laurie & Steve Miller Elaine & Larry Rothenberg Joan C. Sall Barbara & Peter Sidel Bonnie & Allen Sirkin Sydelle Sonkin Rita & Burtzil Tansky Linda Teitelbaum Terry & Frank Vaccaro



A Few Special Thank You's



A special thank you to Hal and Barbara Danenberg for underwriting the painting of our lobby.



A special thank you to Burt^{z1} and Rita Tansky for generously underwriting the new sanctuary pews and the carpeting in both the sanctuary and the social hall.



And a special thank you to Bob and Beryl Schneider for underwriting the painting of our social hall.

HIGH HOLY DAY HONOR ROLL

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Your gift to Temple Judea truly makes a difference - both for our members in need and to our sacred community!

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Each year during the High Holy Day season we ask for your generosity and help. Gifts to the High Holy Day Appeal help offset the difference between the cost of running the Temple and the 60% of expenses covered by dues. Monies raised go directly to help members in need, our youth education program, and teen programming.

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Chai Society is \$436 above your full dues commitment and Golden Chai is \$1360 above your full dues commitment. All monies raised support members who would not otherwise be able to afford to join our sacred home.

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RABBI'S AND CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

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